

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2389

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5067

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: ALLON STATEMENT ON POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF EMBASSY

REF: TEL AVIV 4829

1. DURING THE SPECIAL KNESSET SESSION TO OBSERVE THE U.S. BI-CENTENNIAL, OPPOSITION LEADER BEGIN URGED THE U.S. TO TRANSFER ITS EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM (SEE REFTEL). ON JULY 21, BEGIN PROPOSED IN THE KNESSET THAT IN WAKE OF DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM PLANK CALLING FOR TRANSFER OF EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM, REPUBLICAN PARTY BE ASKED TO ADOPT SIMILAR RESOLUTION. THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE HAS NOW ISSUED THE TEXT OF FONMIN ALLON'S REPLY TO BEGIN, DELIVERED IN THE KNESSET THE SAME DAY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: IF THERE IS ONE SUBJECT ON WHICH THE ENTIRE PEOPLE AND ALL ZIONIST PARTIES ARE UNITED, IT IS THE SUBJECT OF JERUSALEM. UNITED JERUSALEM, THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL UNDER ITS SOVEREIGNTY. ON THIS SUBJECT, COMMON VIEWS ARE SHARED BY ALL PARTIES, OPPOSITION AND COALITION ALIKE. THERE IS NO ROOM HERE FOR INTERNAL STRIFE--ONLY FOR FIRMLY CLOSED RANKS AGAINST OUTSIDE CRITICISM.

3. AND INDEED, ABOUT THREE AND A HALF MONTHS AGO, WHEN THE POLITICAL NECESSITY AROSE, I REITERATED OUR POSITION ON UNCLASSIFIED

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BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, FROM THOS ROSTRUM--TO QUOTE:

"JERUSALEM, ETERNAL CAPITAL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, IS AN INSEPARABLE PART OF THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF ISRAEL, AND WILL NEVER AGAIN BE DIVIDED..UNITED JERUSALEM, CAPITAL OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, UNDER ISRAEL SOVEREIGNTY, IS A FACT UNASSAILABLE BY ANY PARTY."

4. NEITHER ARE THERE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AMONGST US REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF FOREIGN EMBASSIES TO JERUSALEM. WE SHOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN ISRAEL -- AND NOT ONLY THE UNITED STATES--PERMANENTLY RESIDING IN THE CAPITAL. THIS IS WHERE AMBASSADORS PRESENT THEIR CREDENTIALS, AND IT IS ONLY NATURAL FOR THEM ALSO TO MAKE THE CAPITAL THEIR OFFICIAL ADDRESS. AND THERE ARE INDEED SOME FRIENDLY NATIONS, NOT AS STRONG AS THE U.S.,LESS POWERFUL, WHO HAVE CHOSEN THE CAPITAL FOR THE SEAT OF THEIR MISSION.

5. I WISH TO STRESS AGAIN THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WILL WELCOME THE DECISION OF ANY GOVERNMENT TO PLACE ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN JERUSALEM. SUCH A STEP WOULD, AFTER ALL, NOT BE AIMED AGAINST ANYONE. THERE IS THEREFORE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR TYING IT CHRONOLOGICALLY TO FUTURE AGREEMENTS: THIS IS DEFINITELY A STEP TO BE CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS.

6. WITHOUT WISHING TO MAKE LIGHT OF THEPLATFORMS OF POLITICAL PARTIES--THIS IS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF PLATFORM PARAGRAPHS-- BUT ONE OF TRANSLATION INTO PRACTICE. AND INDEED,IN ITS CONTACTS WITH THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT--AS ALL GOVERNMENTS BEFORE IT--HAS CONTINUOUSLY BEEN ASKED FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE U.S. EMBASSY FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM. I MAY BE PERMITTED TO MENTION THAT I MYSELF HAVE RAISED THE SUBJECT A NUMBER OF TIMES IN TALKS WITH U.S. REPRESENTATIVES AND AGAIN, ONLY A WEEK AGO, AT THE JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY MEETING. (SEE TEL AVIV 5007)

7. UP TO THIS POINT, AS I HAVE SAID, WE STAND UNITED; AT THE SAME TIME, I MUST EXPRESS SURPRISE AT A VETERAN PARLIAMENTARIAN OF MR BEGIN'S EXPERIENCE, WHO SEES FIT TO TABLE A MOTION, TO ADDRESS A CALL IN ISRAEL'S PARLIAMENT TO A POLITICAL PARTY IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. I WONDER HOW WE SHOULD VIEW AN OFFICIAL APPEAL, ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRY'S PARLIAMENT, TO ANY ONE OF OUR OWN PARTIES--LET ALONE ON THE EVE OF DOMESTIC ELECTIONS. I AM AFRIAD THIS IS HARDLY THE WAY THIS MATTER SHOULD BE APPROACHED. END TEXT DUNNIGAN

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